

RECEIVED
FEB 28 2002
TC 1700

PATENT



PENDING CLAIMS AFTER AMENDMENTS ARE ENTERED

1. A method for detecting halitosis, said method comprising:
contacting an array of sensors with mammalian breath suspected of
containing a marker gas indicative of halitosis; and
detecting said marker gas to determine the presence of halitosis.
2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said array of
sensors comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a surface acoustic
wave sensor, a quartz microbalance sensor; a conductive composite; a chemiresistor; a
metal oxide gas sensor and a conducting polymer sensor, a dye-impregnated polymer
film on fiber optic detector, a polymer-coated micromirror, an electrochemical gas
detector, a chemically sensitive field-effect transistor, a carbon black-polymer composite,
a micro-electro-mechanical system device and a micro-opto-electro-mechanical system
device.
3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said marker gas is a
member selected from the group consisting of alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, dienes, alicyclic
hydrocarbons, arenes, alcohols, ethers, ketones, aldehydes, carbonyls, carbanions,
polynuclear aromatics, biomolecules, sugars, isoprenes isoprenoids, VOC, VOA, indoles,
skatoles, diamines, pyridines, picolines, an off-gas of a microorganism and fatty acids.
4. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising
generating a response from said sensors and inputting said response to a neural net
trained against known marker gases.
5. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said marker gas is
an off gas of a member selected from the group consisting of Prevotella intermedia,

Fusobacterium nucleatum, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Porphyromonas endodontalis*, *Prevotella loescheii*, *Hemophilus parainfluenzae*, *Stomatococcus mucii*, *Treponema denticola*, *Veillonella* species, *Peptostreptococcus anaerobius*, *Micros prevotii*, *Eubacterium limosum*, *Centipeda periodontii*, *Selemonad aremidis*, *Eubacterium* species, *Bacteriodes* species, *Fusobacterium periodonticum*, *Prevotella melaninogenica*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Citrobacter* species and *Stomatococcus mucilaginus*.

6. A method for detecting periodontal disease, said method comprising:
contacting an array of sensors with mammalian breath suspected of containing a marker gas indicative of periodontal disease; and
detecting said marker gas to determine the presence of periodontal disease.

7. A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein said array of sensors comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a surface acoustic wave sensor, a quartz microbalance sensor; a conductive composite; a chemiresistor; a metal oxide gas sensor and a conducting polymer sensor, a dye-impregnated polymer film on fiber optic detector, a polymer-coated micromirror, an electrochemical gas detector, a chemically sensitive field-effect transistor, a carbon black-polymer composite, a micro-electro-mechanical system device and a micro-opto-electro-mechanical system device.

8. A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein said marker gas is a member selected from the group consisting of alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, dienes, alicyclic hydrocarbons, arenes, alcohols, ethers, ketones, aldehydes, carbonyls, carbanions, polynuclear aromatics, biomolecules, sugars, isoprenes isoprenoids, VOC, VOA, indoles, skatoles, diamines, pyridines, picolines, an off-gas of a microorganism and fatty acids.

9. A method in accordance with claim 6, further comprising generating a response from said sensors and inputting said response to a neural net trained against known marker gases.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. A method for detecting vaginitis, said method comprising:
contacting an array of sensors with vaginal vapor suspected of containing a marker gas indicative of vaginitis; and
detecting said marker gas to determine the presence of vaginitis.

15. A method in accordance with claim 14, wherein said array of sensors comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a surface acoustic wave sensor, a quartz microbalance sensor; a conductive composite; a chemiresistor; a metal oxide gas sensor and a conducting polymer sensor, a dye-impregnated polymer film on fiber optic detector, a polymer-coated micromirror, an electrochemical gas detector, a chemically sensitive field-effect transistor, a carbon black-polymer composite, a micro-electro-mechanical system device and a micro-opto-electro-mechanical system device.

16. A method in accordance with claim 14, wherein said marker gas is a member selected from the group consisting of alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, dienes, alicyclic hydrocarbons, arenes, alcohols, ethers, ketones, aldehydes, carbonyls, carbanions, polynuclear aromatics, biomolecules, sugars, isoprenes isoprenoids, VOC, VOA, indoles, skatoles, diamines, pyridines, picolines, an off-gas of a microorganism,

methylamine, isobutylamine, putrescine, cadaverine, histamine, tyramine, phenethylamine and fatty acids.

17. A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising generating a response from said sensors and inputting said response to a neural net trained against known marker gases.

18. A method for detecting ovulation, said method comprising:
contacting an array of sensors with vaginal vapor suspected of containing a marker gas indicative of ovulation; and
detecting said marker gas to determine ovulation.

19. A method in accordance with claim 18, wherein said array of sensors comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a surface acoustic wave sensor, a quartz microbalance sensor; a conductive composite; a chemiresistor; a metal oxide gas sensor and a conducting polymer sensor, a dye-impregnated polymer film on fiber optic detector, a polymer-coated micromirror, an electrochemical gas detector, a chemically sensitive field-effect transistor, a carbon black-polymer composite, a micro-electro-mechanical system device and a micro-opto-electro-mechanical system device.

20. A method in accordance with claim 18, wherein said marker gas is a member selected from the group consisting of alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, dienes, alicyclic hydrocarbons, arenes, alcohols, ethers, ketones, aldehydes, carbonyls, carbanions, polynuclear aromatics, biomolecules, sugars, isoprenes isoprenoids, VOC, VOA, indoles, skatoles, diamines, pyridines, picolines, an off-gas of a microorganism, androstenol, dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate and fatty acids.

21. A method in accordance with claim 18, further comprising generating a response from said sensors and inputting said response to a neural net trained against known marker gases.

22. A method for detecting a medical condition, said method comprising: contacting an array of sensors with mammalian body fluid suspected of containing a marker gas indicative of said medical condition; and detecting said marker gas to determine the presence of the medical condition.

23. A method in accordance with claim 22, wherein said array of sensors comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a surface acoustic wave sensor, a quartz microbalance sensor; a conductive composite; a chemiresistor; a metal oxide gas sensor and a conducting polymer sensor, a dye-impregnated polymer film on fiber optic detector, a polymer-coated micromirror, an electrochemical gas detector, a chemically sensitive field-effect transistor, a carbon black-polymer composite, a micro-electro-mechanical system device and a micro-opto-electro-mechanical system device.

24. (New) A method for comparing the analyte profiles of mammalian breath samples, said method comprising:

(a) contacting an array of sensors with a sample of mammalian breath to identify analytes in said sample; and

(b) comparing the results of the analysis with a stored mammalian breath analyte profile, thereby comparing the analyte profiles of mammalian breath samples.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said stored mammalian breath analyte profile is generated by:

(a) contacting an array of sensors with a sample of mammalian breath to identify analytes in said sample; and

(b) storing the results in a computer-readable format.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said analyte is a marker gas.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said marker gas is a member selected from the group consisting of alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, dienes, alicyclic hydrocarbons, arenes, alcohols, ethers, ketones, aldehydes, carbonyls, carbanions, polynuclear aromatics, biomolecules, sugars, isoprenes isoprenoids, VOC, VOA, indoles, skatoles, diamines, pyridines, picolines, an off-gas of a microorganism and fatty acids.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said marker gas is an off gas of a member selected from the group consisting of *Prevotella intermedia*, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Porphyromonas endodontalis*, *Prevotella loescheii*, *Hemophilus parainfluenzae*, *Stomatococcus mucii*, *Treponema denticola*, *Veillonella* species, *Peptostreptococcus anaerobius*, *Micros prevotii*, *Eubacterium limosum*, *Centipeda periodontii*, *Seimonad aremidis*, *Eubacterium* species, *Bacteriodes* species, *Fusobacterium periodonticum*, *Prevotella melaninogenica*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Citrobacter* species and *Stomatococcus mucilaginus*.

29. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said array of sensors comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a surface acoustic wave sensor, a quartz microbalance sensor; a conductive composite; a chemiresistor; a metal oxide gas sensor and a conducting polymer sensor, a dye-impregnated polymer film on fiber optic detector, a polymer-coated micromirror, an electrochemical gas detector, a chemically sensitive field-effect transistor, a carbon black-polymer composite, a micro-electro-mechanical system device and a micro-opto-electro-mechanical system device.

30. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising generating a response from said sensors and inputting said response to a neural net trained against known marker gases.

31. (New) A method for comparing the analyte profiles of mammalian breath samples, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting an array of sensors with first sample of mammalian breath;
- (b) detecting a first set of responses from said array of sensors, wherein said set of responses is a first sensor array response profile;
- (c) analyzing said first sensor array response profile to identify analytes in said first sample;
- (d) storing said first sensor array response profile and the results of the analysis;
- (e) contacting an array of sensors with a second sample of mammalian breath;
- (f) detecting a second set of responses from said array of sensors, wherein said set of responses is a second sensor array response profile;
- (g) analyzing said second sensor array response profile to identify analytes in said second sample; and
- (h) comparing the results of the analysis of said first and second breath samples.